

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SS-20 SP-03 NSC-07 L-03 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 EUR-25 OIC-04 EA-11 DRC-01 /138 W

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R 081720Z APR 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5094

UNCLAS GENEVA 2233

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AORG

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP: NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE ILO

REF: STATE 67875

1. SUMMARY: GENEVA GROUP (ILO) CONSIDERED SUBJECT UNDERTAKING AND NEW US APPROACH THERETO. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS HAD QUESTIONS TO POSE, REVISED US POSITION CAUGHT THEM OFF BALANCE AND AUSTRALIA PROPOSAL FOR A THOROUGH REVIEW OF UNDERTAKING A GENEVA GROUP MEETING WITH REPS FROM CAPITALS ON JUNE 4 FOLLOWING THE EARLY DISTRIBUTION OF A NEW US PAPER WAS SUPPORTED ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY. INTEREST IN PROJECT APPEARS SINCERE AND PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSION WAS LIVELY AND UNIVERSAL. END SUMMARY.

2. GENEV GROUP (ILO) SESSION APRIL 5 CHAIRED BY US AND ATTEND-ED BY ALL MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS, EVERYONE OF WHOM PARTICIPATEDIN LIVELY DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT. IN INTEREST FACILITATING AND STRUC-TURING DISCUSSION US PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO MEETING A FIVE POINT DISCUSSION OUTLINE (COPY SENT IO/LAB, HEATER) AS FOLLOWS: I, STATEMENT OF PURPOSE; II, STUDY ASSIGNMENTS; III, TIME SCHEDULE; IV, SUGGESTED PROCEDURES WITH SBHEADINGS (A), GOVERNMENTS AND (B), GENEVA GROUP; AND V, DISPOSITION OF COMPLETED REPORT. IN ADDITION TO THESE DISCUSSION HEADINGS OUTLINE CONTAIN-ED (UNDER I, STATEMENT OF PURPOSE) A ONE PARAGRAPH STATEMENT OF LATEST US INTERPRETATION OF PURPOSE AS CONTAINED REFTEL AND (UNDER UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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II, STUDY ASSIGNMENTS) A LIST OF THE 12 ORIGINAL STUDY AREAS WITH AN INDICATION OF GOVERNMENTS' CHOICES TO DATE.

3. AT OUTSET, US REP INFORMED GROUP OF LATEST US THINKING AS PER REFTEL UNDER EACH OF HEADINGS OF DISCUSSION OUTLINE. RECEPTION OF THIS STATEMENT WAS, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, RATHER MIXED.

4. FRANCE, FOR INSTANCE, EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT TIME SCHEDULE OF UNDERTAKING WAS NOT GEARED FOR A REPORT TO THE 12TH CONSULTATION RATHER THAN TO THE ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL. (US AGREED THIS ASPECT SHOULD BE GIVEN FURTHER CONSIDERATION).

5. SWEDISH REP HAD RECEIVED LIST OF QUESTIONS TO POSE TO SESSION FROM STOCKHOLM BUT LATEST CONCEPT AND SCENARIO AS SUGGESTED BY US REP HAD OBIATED SOME QUESTIONS AND APPEARED RAISE OTHERS AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO RETURN MATTER TO HIS CAPITAL FOR FURTHER GUIDANCE. BY AND LARGE HIS GOVERNMENT FAVORED LOOKING FOR NEW DIRECTIONS BUT WAS CONCERNED THAT PROJECT AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED MIGHT BE DUPLICATION OF ILO STUDIES AND PLANS AND WOULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD.

6. GERMANS AND JAPANESE INDICATED THEY PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE STUDY OF PROGRAM AREAS AS PROPOSED BUT THAT NEW US GUIDANCE RAISED CERTAIN QUESTIONS FOR WHICH THEY WOULD SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

7. AUSTRALIA (COOKE) SAID THAT HE HAD ONLY THAT DAY RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM CANBERRA RAISING SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT STUDY CONCEPT AND PROPOSING, IF QUESTIONS COULD BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED, THAT AUSTRALIA UNDERTAKE STUDY OF ITEM 3, STRENGTHENING OF LABOR ADMINISTRATION. HOWEVER, NEW AMERICAN APPROACH SEEMED SUGGEST THAT MATTER SHOULD BE RE-THOUGHT, A NEW PAPER ISSUED BY THE US IN THE NEXT MONTH OR SO IN ORDER THAT THE WHOLE PROJECT COULD BE DISCUSSED SERIOUSLY AND IN DEPTH BY REPS FROM CAPITALS ON JUNE 4TH IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO OPENING OF LABOR CONFERENCE.

8. BELGIUM INDICATED IN PREPARED TO PROCEED WITH ITS SECTION OF STUDY, HOPEFULLY LABOR STATISTICS, BUT ALSO SUPPORTED IDEA OF A NEW LOOK AT THE UNDERTAKING IN JUNE. IN FACT, BRUSSELS MIGHT BE WILLING TO COMMENCE STUDY AT ONCE AND REPORT PROGRESS AT THE MEETING IN JUNE WHERE THE GROUP MIGHT BE AIDED BY BELGIUM EXPERIENCE TO THAT DAT3. HE COULD NOT PROMISE THIS BUT WOULD EXPLORE POSSIBILITY
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WITH HIS GOVERNMENT.

9. UK SAID NEW US APPROACH FRANKLY DID NOT CLARIFY ISSUE IN BRITISH VIEW. A STUDY OF THE EVALUATIVE TYPE AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED AT 11TH CONSULTATION WAS UNDERSTANDABLE AND THOUGH HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET FOUND THE MONEY, THEY HAD INTENDED TO HIRE A HIGHLY QUALIFIED CONSULTANT TO EXAMINE LABOR STATISTICS ISSUE. HOWEVER, NEW US APPROACH APPEARED MORE VAGUE AND UK SUPPORTED AUSTRALIA PROPOSAL FOR ANOTHER, NEW US PAPER AND THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF SUBJECT AT JUNE MEETING WITH REPS FROM CAPITALS. NMQU NETHERLANDS SAID

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GENEVA02233
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740080-0237
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740459/aaaacbzw.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 67875
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2002 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <06 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENEVA GROUP: NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE ILO
TAGS: AORG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005